

DEAD WHEN CALLED FOR TRIAL

Under Indictment for Forgery Here, He Died in a Philadelphia Hotel.

Coroner's Physician Who Examined the Body Died Within an Hour Afterward.

MYSTERY SURROUNDS THE CASE.

Recorder Goff Did Not Believe the Report, as Louis Had Made Several Attempts at Suicide, and So Forfeited His Bond.

Philadelphia, Pa., April 16.—Joseph H. Louis, whose trial for forgery was set for today in the New York Court of General Sessions, was found dead in his room at the Hotel Bellevue yesterday, and the authorities are maintaining a very mysterious air about the manner of his death. This mystery is heightened by the fact that Coroner's physician William K. Matern, who made an autopsy on the body this morning, died suddenly an hour later in the Coroner's office before he had time to file his report in the case. The inquest to-morrow man, however, bring out some interesting facts.

Louis went to the hotel on Monday night, and after retiring was not seen again yesterday, when he was found lying dead on the floor of his room. The body was taken over to J. Lewis Good, the Coroner's undertaker, who telegraphed to the man's friends in New York.

Colonel Good says that he is led to believe that Louis died of congestion of the lungs, and that he saw no signs of suicide. Coroner Ashbridge refuses to say anything about the case, but he will have another physician make an autopsy to-day.

The body was identified to-day by R. Frank Levy, a brother-in-law of Louis, who came here in response to Colonel Good's telegram. He made a sworn statement, saying that Louis left his home in New York on Monday, intending to go to Newark, and then to Plainfield, N. J. He said nothing about coming here. He accords the idea that the man committed suicide, and says that he never heard of any other effort on Louis's part to end his life. He also denied all knowledge of the charges against Louis.

Joseph H. Louis, formerly of No. 227 Edgecomb avenue, did not appear for trial of an indictment for forgery in General Sessions yesterday. A clerk for his attorneys, Rose & Putzell, told Recorder Goff that the firm had received a telegram from Louis Good, an undertaker at No. 921 Spruce street, Philadelphia, telling of Louis's death through suicide on Wednesday night. Assistant District-Attorney Vernon M. Davis said that he did not believe the defendant was dead. It had been reported on three other occasions that Louis had attempted to commit suicide, in fact, and that the delays in bringing the case to a final determination had each time been brought about by these alleged attempts at self murder.

Recorder Goff, on Mr. Davis's advice, ordered the bond forfeited, saying that should it prove that Louis is really dead he would entertain a motion to set aside the forfeiture. So Philip Frank, of No. 209 West One Hundred and Twenty-seventh street, was called upon to produce the body of Louis in court on his failure pay \$10,000 to the State. Detectives were armed with a warrant for Louis's arrest and sent out to fetch him to court.

Louis was for many years the manager for the firm of Nathan, Schloss & Co., of No. 603 and 655 Broadway, manufacturers of boys' clothing. He occupied the most confidential relations with the members, and it was not until his forgeries and speculations had reached up in the many thousands that he was suspected. The actual sum taken by him has never been accurately ascertained, but it is said to have been near \$250,000. It resulted in the failure of the firm in December, 1893, when the half-million were given out at more than \$1,000,000.

When the shortage was discovered, Louis, it is said, went to a hotel on Union square and attempted suicide by inhaling illuminating gas. He was found unconscious, but was finally revived. On Tuesday, after agreeing to plead guilty, he fled the city, telling his friends that he would return in a day or two. Nothing more was heard of him until the announcement made yesterday of his suicide.

Louis was thirty-eight years of age and had a wife and three children.

NO TRACE OF BURDEN JEWELS.

Story of a Confession Pointing to the Thief Positively Denied.

A story that a servant of L. Townsend Burden, of No. 5 East Twenty-sixth street, had confessed to complicity in the great robbery of jewels on December 27, and that the real culprit was another discharged servant now crossing the ocean to Europe was denied by Mr. Burden yesterday. He said:

"There is no truth whatever in the report. Two of my servants are now in England, and have been there some time. Not the smallest suspicion attaches to them. I have no late servant now upon the water, and no suspicion of any kind has been made. Neither has Scotland Yard been notified to make an arrest.

Chief of the Detective Bureau O'Brien yesterday corroborated all that Mr. Burden had said.

BENEFITS FOR CHARITIES.

Opera Stars Sing at Abbey's and Prominent Artists Appear at Palmer's.

Benefits for charitable purposes were given yesterday at Abbey's and Palmer's theatres. Despite the warm weather, both houses were filled. At Abbey's the French Day Nursery was the beneficiary. The artists comprised Mme. Calve and Messrs. Plancon and Lubert, of the Italian Opera Company, with Sig. Seppell as accompanist. Messrs. Rivard and Lachance also volunteered their services. Mme. Calve sang nearly a dozen selections, including the encores, and was in excellent voice. Rivard's violin solos were received with the usual enthusiasm and the other artists were as cordially greeted.

At Palmer's the benefit was for the New York Throat and Nose Hospital, and nearly \$1,000 was realized. The performance included the "Chimble Fadden" company in an act of that play; Grace Stuart, John M. Turner, the Arroll Trio, Chauncey Olcott, Vivian Bernard, the Misses Leach, Alice J. Shaw, Nina Rathbone, J. E. Dodson, the Sisters Abbott, Eugene Sanger, Lilly Post, Rose Thurman, James Dougherty and the sisters Clafflin.



Baron de Grimm.

FRED TITUS AND HIS BRIDE

They Are Wheeling Away Their Honey-moon on the Roads of New Jersey.

Though it was understood that Mr. Fred J. Titus, the well-known racing cyclist, was to be married in June to a young woman who is soon to make her appearance on the opera stage, the news that the ceremony was performed on Tuesday night will come in the nature of a surprise to his many friends and also to those who know him through his public efforts abroad.

Miss Eliza Mae Pettie, of Syracuse, was the name of the bride. The marriage took place in the Reformed Presbyterian Church, on the Western Boulevard at West Sixty-eighth street, Rev. Dr. Peters officiating. Only near relatives and a few intimate friends were present.

Mrs. Titus, though only seventeen years old, has made a very favorable impression in amateur theatricals in Syracuse. She has recently been studying in this city. She has an excellent mezzo-soprano voice of wide range. The initial appearance of Mrs. Titus on the metropolitan stage will take place during the coming summer season at the Casino, when she will have a principal part in "The Review of Reviews," a play in which she will be the principal. In the same production one of the principals will be Miss Sylvia Thorne, a sister of Mr. Titus, who will be remembered for her clever work in "The Passing Show."

The newly married couple, it is understood, are limiting their bride trip to a short trip over the main roads of New Jersey. The bride is an expert rider.

MARRIED IN TRINITY CHAPEL.

Miss Mabel Metcalf Becomes the Bride of Mr. Harris Fahnestock.

The marriage of Miss Mabel Metcalf, daughter of Mr. James Betts Metcalf, to Mr. Harris Fahnestock, took place yesterday afternoon in Trinity Chapel. The bride was exceedingly pretty in a gown of rich pearl white satin, devoid of all trimming except a soft garniture of old lace on the bodice. Her veil, of family point, fastened to her costume by a spray of orange blossoms and a diamond star, the bridegroom's gift, and she carried a shower bouquet of lilacs of the valley.

The ushers were Walter E. Maynard, Richard Van Wyck, Seymour Cromwell, and Augustus F. Francis. The bridesmaids were Miss Louise Eldridge, whose gown was of heliotrope satin, set off by frills of lace on the corsage. She wore a white chip hat trimmed with white feathers, and carried a bouquet of white lilacs and bride roses.

MATINEE BY EMBRYO STARS.

Empire Theatre Pupils Appear in Four Pretty One Act Comedies.

Students of the Empire Theatre Dramatic School gave an exhibition matinee yesterday, appearing in four one-act plays, three of which were presented for the first time. The programme began with "M. J. Craig's Comedy," "Kour Very Humble Servant," which has been seen before. The characters were cleverly impersonated by Louis Orris, Sarah Young, Jeannette Brothers and Louise York. It was followed by "The Sudden Shower," in which Charles G. Stevens, David Valencourt and Britta Marti took part. "Twigs and Tinders," adapted from James Whitcomb Riley by Annie Josephine Levi, followed. It was a character sketch, and was cleverly interpreted by Byron Ogilvy, Kathryn Mulkins and Franklin Hill, with a parrot as a valuable adjunct. The last comedy, "The Dumb," concluded the performance. The various characters were taken by Tom Hadaway, John Schwoerer, Elizabeth Freese, Margaret Mayo, Lily A. Buckingham and Ruth Ward.

PRIZES FOR GIRLS' ESSAYS.

Colonial Dames Make a Pleasing Offer to the Students of the Normal School.

The girl students at Normal College had a pleasant surprise yesterday when a committee representing the Colonial Dames made an initial offer of a prize for the best essay. The offer is expected to be repeated annually and a record of honor is to be made in the college annals.

The committee, which consisted of Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt, Mrs. Lydia M. Hoyt, Mrs. George F. Canfield, Mrs. Edward Curtis and Mrs. Eugene F. Van, has named as the conditions that the subject of the essay should be Colonial History in New York State. When the essays are submitted they are to be handed over to a committee of the Colonial Dames. The best will be selected and then William Dean Howells, Charles Dudley Warner and Dr. Edward Eggleston will read them and decide which girl ought to receive the prize. The results will not be known for a week or two.

ST. JAMES HOTEL PURCHASE.

Price \$900,000.—The Papers Will Be Signed Next Week.

At the office of the Paul Spofford estate, No. 29 Broadway, it was said yesterday that the negotiations for the sale of the St. James Hotel had been satisfactorily concluded and that all that remained before the contract is signed was the authorization of one of the parties forming the purchasing syndicate. It is the intention of the purchasers, who are Philadelphiaans, after buying up the six-year lease of the St. James Hotel Company, to erect a large office building.

In all probability the contract will not be signed before next week. The price agreed upon is announced to be about \$900,000.

The Dead Cartoonist, De Grimm, and Some of His Sketches.

Baron Constantine de Grimm, who was known prominently here and in Europe as an artist, died in this city at noon yesterday. He was born in the Winter Palace at St. Petersburg, where his father was tutor to the Prince, afterward the Emperor Nicholas. The family returned to Germany, where young De Grimm served with honor in the Franco-Prussian War. Afterward he went to Paris and became an artist, showing special talent for comic pictures. Coming to this country, he achieved prominence as a cartoonist for the daily papers.

CITIZENS UNITE TO SAVE CENTRAL PARK.

Denounce the Attempt to Take Part of It for Private Purposes.

Senator Coggeshall Asked to Withdraw the Support He Has Given to the Bill.

WONT BE POSSIBLE TO PASS IT.

Influential Men and Officials Take Steps to Thwart the Plan to Build a Permanent World's Fair on City Grounds.

The bold attempt of a syndicate to get hold of 100 acres of the most beautiful and popular part of Central Park has aroused intense indignation, and already strong efforts are being made by influential men in all parts of the city to defeat the bill which was smuggled through two readings in the Legislature. That the measure can be passed, now that its real purpose has been exposed, is not believed possible by any of the Park Commissioners.

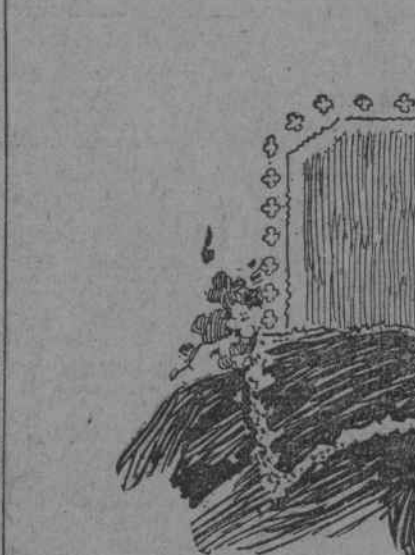
The identity of the men back of the bill is unknown, although their names are given in the bill as L. Boyer, V. A. Boyer and A. C. Fisher. These men could not be found yesterday, nor could any information as to their business standing be learned. The bill which they had introduced in the Legislature April 2 was fathered by Senator Coggeshall, and if passed would give to these men nearly one-eighth of the entire territory of Central Park. Upon this land they are authorized by the bill to erect buildings for a "permanent world's fair," the profits of which would revert to the syndicate back of the scheme.

When the fact that such a bill had passed its second reading at Albany was made known persons who own property near the southern end of Central Park became uneasy. They took steps to defeat the measure.

S. Van Rensselaer Cruger, president of the Park Commission, and his fellow members, spoke of the proposed measure in the severest terms yesterday.

"It was entirely unknown to us, and its author did not have the courtesy to mail a copy of the proposed act, and therefore we knew but little about it," said Mr. Cruger. "I desire to say, however, that so far as myself, as president, and my fellow members of the Park Commission are concerned, we are most determinedly opposed to any such bill, and trust that Senator Coggeshall, who introduced it, now that he understands the concealed

painter De Haas's estate. All of the estate of the late Maurits P. H. De Haas, a marine painter, which is valued at \$50,000, will go to his two children. Alice Prable Tucker De Haas, his second wife, sought to break the will on the ground that it made provision for the first wife, long since dead, and utterly ignored her. Surrogate Fitzgerald decided that, as the first Mrs. De Haas was not alive to inherit her share of the estate, it must go entirely to her children.



meaning contained in certain of its clauses, will cause its early withdrawal or rejection. We have not the slightest idea who the Mr. Boyer is that is mentioned by Senator Coggeshall as having sent the bill to him. It seems from his published statement that Senator Coggeshall is in a like dilemma, but it is to be hoped he will soon discover who the mysterious Mr. Boyer is and in that way let the public know the intent of such a bill.

"People who own property near the Park are indignant," said Henry Roster, manager of the Netherlands Hotel. "Their interests would be affected very materially by huge



Close of a Busy Career, in Which He Figured as Soldier and Artist

BORN AT THE RUSSIAN COURT.

He Served with Gallantry in the Franco-Prussian War and Was Honored by the Crown Prince Frederick.

Baron Constantine de Grimm, who died yesterday at noon, of pneumonia, had been for many years a well-known figure in the local German colony, the members of which esteemed him highly for his many good personal traits, as well as for his undoubted artistic ability.

He caught a severe cold two weeks ago, which soon developed into pneumonia. He had been delicious since Sunday, up to which time he had been without medical attendance. He had always boasted that he had never required to services of a physician, and his aversion to them was one of his eccentricities.

His was a career that began in a palace and ended in East Fifteenth street. He was the descendant of a family that was well known in France during the last century and emigrated to Germany, where the father of the artist was born.

The father, who was a man of much learning, was invited to St. Petersburg, to take charge of the education of the Prince, who afterward became the Emperor Nicholas, and returned to the Russian capital years afterward to instruct the children of his imperial pupil, who had by that time ascended the throne.

It was in the Winter Palace, soon after his father's return to St. Petersburg, that the late Baron de Grimm was born, and for sixteen years he shared the sports and studies of the late Czar Alexander and his brothers, Alexis and Vladimir.

De Grimm was still a youth in his teens when his father retired from his post in St. Petersburg, and thereafter his education was carried on in Berlin. At the breaking out of the Franco-Prussian war he went to the front as an officer in the First Regiment of the Life Guards and served until after the Commune with the highest distinction, winning the praise of the Crown Prince Frederick, in whose division he was, and receiving as a reward for personal gallantry on the field of battle the much-coveted Iron Cross.

After the war he returned to Berlin and, becoming interested in the study of art, resigned his commission in the army, to the intense horror of his father, who was a diplomat and nobleman of the old school, and began to paint portraits and make drawings for the comic papers.

Late in the seventies De Grimm removed to Paris and after several years came to New York. He made cartoons for both the Herald and Telegram and subsequently opened a studio and made drawings for various newspapers, as well as for a syndicate which he conducted himself.

His eldest child, a boy of great promise, died about ten years ago, and about a year ago his wife, while a condition of melancholia, committed suicide.

A WHOLE TOWN FOR SALE.

Halberstow, N. J., to Be Disposed Of by the Sheriff.

Sea Isle City, N. J., April 16.—In a few days Sheriff Shinn, of Cumberland County, will offer at public sale, to satisfy judgments aggregating \$40,000, the entire town of Halberstow, in the lower end of Cumberland County.

The unusual occurrence of selling an entire town is attracting widespread attention. The sale includes the fifty or more dwelling houses, a large factory plant and about 5,000 acres of land.

Halberstow was established in 1892 by a New York syndicate, which spent fully \$100,000 in the venture, which proved a gigantic failure.

FEARED HE WOULD BE BLIND.

Ex-Congressman Voorhis Grew Dependent and So Killed Himself.

Ex-Congressman Charles H. Voorhis, who committed suicide in his law office in the Davidson building, Jersey City, Wednesday night, did so because he was losing his eyesight. He had already become partly blind in his left eye and the thought of entirely losing his sight and that his brain might give way under the strain no doubt caused the act.

The funeral will take place from his late



home, No. 114 Clifton place, Jersey City Heights, this afternoon.

Homeless For a Year.

A policeman attached to the Clymer Street Station, Williamsburg, late Wednesday night, found John Lucy, an old man, way erring about the streets, and took him to the station house. Lucy told the Sergeant that he had been without a home for a year. At one time he said he had been in comfortable circumstances in England, but when his family began to die off he lost everything and came to this country.

Justice Goetting sent him to the Almshouse.

MR. AND MRS. FRED TITUS. He is a well-known racing bicyclist, and she, formerly Miss Pettie, of Syracuse, is soon to make her debut in light opera. They were married on Tuesday, but the news was made public only yesterday. Their wedding tour is being made on bicycles.

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AN ALLEGED LUNATIC HAS SOME RIGHTS.

Justice Freedman Makes a New and Important Ruling in the Levy Trial.

Burden of Proof Put Upon the State to Establish the Charge of Insanity.

BOWLS DOWN AN OLD PRECEDENT.

Hitherto the Process Has Been to Put a Man in the Law's Grasp and Then Defy Him to Struggle Out.

Justice Freedman, of the Supreme Court, smashed all precedents and ignored all trivial technicalities yesterday by ruling that Daniel Levy must be proved insane before he could be held by the Ward's Island authorities. It was not enough, he said, for a couple of physicians to send Levy to the asylum and then defy him to demonstrate his sanity.

Lawyer Charles F. Holm took Levy into Trial Term, Part X, yesterday morning for the third trial of the alleged lunatic's fight for liberty, so bitterly opposed by the Lehmanns. Levy was sent to the asylum because he had been in jure with Harriet Lehman for fourteen years, even after her marriage to Sigmund Lehman, her cousin.

He was declared insane because, as alleged by Mrs. Lehman, he had pursued her without encouragement.

The first trial was stopped abruptly by Justice Bookstaver because he was informed that one of the jurors had been "approached" by some one unknown. Then followed the contempt proceedings against Albert Stetson, one of the jurors, who, it was alleged, accused Delancey Nicoll, counsel to the Lehmanns, of having "arranged" the unexpected termination of the trial to keep the case from the jury. Stetson escaped with a reprimand.

Justice Giegerich presided over the second trial, when the jury disagreed, standing eight to four in Levy's favor. Famous medical experts testified during that proceeding that Levy was perfectly sane.

Justice Freedman made Levy's case much stronger yesterday by deciding at the beginning of the third trial that the burden of proof was upon the State. Lawyer Holm smiled triumphantly and Delancey Nicoll looked crestfallen. Both lawyers

expressed the fact, even if the jury disagreed, Levy would be freed.

"The prisoner has never had his day in court," said Justice Freedman, emphatically. "The commitment is only provisional and the authorities holding the prisoner must prove their right to do so."

No law could be constitutional, said Justice Freedman, which tended to keep a sane man in an asylum.

"Over and above all statutes," Justice Freedman exclaimed, almost angrily, "the constitutional right of every American citizen to a trial by a jury of his peers. This prisoner has never had. The proceedings before the committing magistrate were without notice to him, so he is in the position of not having had a trial."

As soon as this point had been settled, the work of getting a jury was begun. At 4 o'clock, when the trial was adjourned to this morning, the lawyers had not succeeded in getting a jury that satisfied them.

The news of Justice Freedman's vigorous assertion of Levy's rights spread like wildfire through the County Court house, and created a sensation among the other judges and the lawyers who thronged the big building. It was the general opinion that Justice Freedman had been the first to view Levy's situation justly.

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HILLIARD HARD AT WORK.

Getting His New Headquarters Ready and Arranging to Secure Clerks from the Excise Board.

George Hilliard, the Deputy Excise Commissioner, was at his office in the Metropolitan Life Insurance Building, Twenty-third street and Madison avenue, nearly all yesterday. He was supervising the arrangement of the fourteen rooms that are to be occupied by his men.

In speaking of the transfer of employees of the old Board to the new department he said:

"The clerks were not only willing, but anxious, to be transferred. I need expert help, and probably some of the clerks of the old Board will volunteer their services until I have the power to make appointments."

The State Civil Service Commissioners will meet in a few days, and it is likely that they will amend the rules in such a manner as to permit the transfer of clerks from the old Board to the new department. Deputy Commissioner Hilliard does not appear to be worried over the matter.